



Council Matters

Saint Jude Council 6551

Winter / Christmas 2011 Newsletter



Calling All Brother Knights – Merry Christmas 2011 and Happy New Year 2012

Grand Knight Message

2011 was a tremendous year for our Council.

We have significantly increased our activity and visibility within the *Saint Andrew the Apostle Parish* community. This has increased awareness of our Council and has helped our recruiting efforts. As a result, we added 14 new members and had 6 members transfer in from other Councils this year. **Monsignor Marucci** and **Father Lovell** are among the transferring members. **Monsignor Marucci** has also honored our Council by becoming our Chaplain. The call to stewardship is alive and well among the Knights of Columbus.

Sadly, we also need to remember our brothers who have gone to their eternal reward – **Tom P. Halpin**, **Jim Heseck** and **Matt Barabuscio**. Please remember these Brother Knights and their families in your prayers.

Our future success depends directly on you. Come to our meetings on the 2nd and 4th *Thursdays* at 7:30 PM in the **Classroom Area** of *Saint Andrew's Parish Hall*. We need your ideas, your creativity and your help. We can do so much more if we have more men involved, more fundraising and more charitable work.

During the first half of 2012, we will do the following:

- Free Throw Competition for area youth
- Soup for Lent – every Friday after Stations of the Cross
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Hoagie Sale
- Can Shake for Citizens with Special Needs
- Scholarship Awards
- Collect Eye Glasses for the Needy
- Serve Refreshments after Holy Mass

What ideas do you have for our Council to raise money or to live the first principle of our order, “Charity”?

If you have not been active in your Council for some time, I am asking you to get active. Come to a meeting, see what we are doing, participate and get to know the feeling that goes with belonging to a real fraternal organization and accomplishing charitable work.

E-Mail Addresses Needed!

If you have not been receiving my e-mail messages over the last 18 months, I don't have your e-mail address! Like all organizations, we would like to move away from snail mail and related postage costs as much as possible. Money saved from postage can be used to expand our charitable work. Meeting announcements, activity announcements, and special information can reach you faster with e-mail. *Please send your email address to: j.a.brennan@comcast.net.*

I hope to see you soon!

Vivat Jesus,

Jim Brennan, Grand Knight

Council Activities - 2011

In this edition of *Council Matters*, we are printing a review of all **Saint Jude Council #6551** activities from *January 2011*.

January

- Four new members took their First Degree – Steve Mignogna, Chris Benz, Newt Schoener, Rich Smyth.

- New member transferred in from another Council – Rich Buchicchio
- Appointed a Scholarship Committee –PGK Gary Strain, Chairman; PGK Ben Vasta, PGK Gil Scutti, PGK Gary Tanner, Steve Mignogna
Responsibilities:
Evaluate current scholarships
Recommend 2011 levels
Manage publicity
Review applicants
Recommend applicants for awards.

February

- Free Throw Competition –Held at Saint Simon Stock Parish Center - 22 kids participated – PGK Gary Strain, Chairman; Chris Benz, PGK Gary Tanner, Greg Malera, PGK Ben Vasta, GK Jim Brennan
- Council collected and shipped 88 pairs of used eye glasses to Eyes for the Needy – PGK Joe Turt – Chairman.
- Soup for Lent / Stations Project – served soup and snacks after Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent – PGK Gil Scutti, Newt Schoener, PGK Gary Strain, PGK Joe Turt, Bill Maffucci, GK Jim Brennan

March

- Five Brothers took the Second Degree – Ray Rossignol, Chris Benz, Newt Schoener, Steve Mignogna, Rich Smyth
- Respect Life posters and prayer cards placed in lobby of Saint Andrew Church

April

- The Council held an Easter Egg Hunt for children. Eggs filled with candy were hidden for the hunt and refreshments were served to parents. PGK Gil Scutti, PGK Gary Strain, Chris Benz, GK Jim Brennan
- Served Refreshments after 10 AM Holy Mass at Saint Andrew – PGK Joe Turt, PGK Gil Scutti, Chris Benz, GK Jim Brennan

May

- The Council made a cash donation to K of C Fund Drive for Deborrah Hospital.
- One new member took the First Degree – Tim Whelihan
- The Council sponsored a Bocce Ball Tournament for the benefit of the Our Lady of Guadalupe Project – Bill Maffucci – Chairman.
- Hoagie Sale – a successful fundraiser – GK Jim Brennan – Chairman, Ray Rossignol, Newt Schoener, John Daddario, Greg Malera, Rich Smyth, Chris Benz
- The Council made a cash contribution to the K of C Pride in our Priests Fund
- Monsignor Marucci transferred his membership to our council

June

- One Brother took the Second Degree – Tim Whelihan
- The Council donated hot roast beef for Deacon Bill Slaven’s ordination party
- Election of Officers 2011-2012
 - Grand Knight – Jim Brennan
 - Deputy Grand Knight- PGK Joe Turt
 - Treasurer – PGK Gary Tanner
 - Chaplain – Monsignor Louis Marucci
 - Chancellor – Steve Mignogna
 - Advocate – Bill Maffucci
 - Warden – Rich Smyth
 - Recorder – PGK Gil Scutti
 - Inside Guard – Newt Schoener
 - Outside Guard – Chris Benz
 - Trustee – PGK Gary Strain
 - Trustee – Ray Rossignol
 - Trustee – Keith Werner
- Five Brothers took the Third Degree – Ray Rossignol, Chris Benz, Steve Mignogna, Newt Schoener, Rich Smyth
- All Council meetings and event dates were approved for the Saint Andrew Parish Planner. A full year activity plan was published to Council Members

July

- New member transferred in from another Council – Bob Marsh

August

- Father Lovell transferred his membership to our council

September

- A baby changing table was purchased by the Council to be installed in the Women's Restroom in Saint Andrew Church

October

- Hoagie Sale – A successful fund raiser – GK Jim Brennan – Chairman, PGK Joe Turt, PGK Gary Strain, PGK Ben Vasta, Mike Cruz, Chris Benz, John Daddario, Rich Smyth, Ray Rossignol
- 56 pairs of eye glasses were collected and sent to Eyes for the Needy – PGK Joe Turt – Chairman
- Membership Blitz held resulting in numerous new prospective candidates
- Partnered with Shane's Castle Council #7463 to sponsor the annual Circus for Children with Special Needs. Trustee Keith Werner volunteered for both the 2 PM and the 6 PM shows.
- Installation of Officers by District Deputy Michael Querubin. Chaplain Monsignor Marucci presided.



- A Social Night was held to meet prospective candidates.

November

- The Council purchased 24 winter coats for Needy Children through a special program offered by

Supreme. Coats were distributed to needy children in our community especially in the City of Camden

- The Council partnered with the Galaxy Youth Group for a Sandwich Project. The Council purchased the ingredients to make sandwiches, the Galaxy kids made the sandwiches and the Council delivered them to the Cathedral Kitchen in Camden for distribution to the hungry
- A Social Night was held to meet prospective candidates

December

- Nine candidates took the First Degree – Eric Errickson, Mark Leise, Joe Lovallo, Jamie Luscombe, Tom Mullen, Stephen Parker, Sam Parry, Tony Peseller, Rev. Mr. Bill Slaven
- One Brother took the Third Degree – Tim Whelihan
- The Council held the Annual Breakfast with Santa. See separate article on the next page.
- The Council sponsored a Good Citizenship Essay Contest for youth in our community
- Brother Steve Mignogna established a new scholarship in the memory of his parents, Brother Knight William and Florence Mignogna. The scholarship will be awarded to worthy students attending a Catholic High School. Steve will personally fund the scholarship which will be managed by the Council's Scholarship Committee.
- The Council provided parking lot assistance and ushers for a special Christmas Eve Children's Holy Mass with television coverage honoring our troops. This Mass was broadcast on a live webcast to our troops in Afghanistan and other parts of the world

All Year

- Roses for Baptism Project – Roses were purchased and presented to the mothers of all babies that were baptized at Saint Andrew Church in recognition of their choice of Life.

Breakfast with Santa



Our annual **Breakfast with Santa** was held on *December 4th* after the *8:30 AM* and *10:00 AM* Holy Masses at *Saint Andrew the Apostle*. This year's breakfast was another success. Breakfast was prepared and served by a large group of **Brother Knights**. Photos with **Santa** were available. Thanks to **Lance Beden** for taking the pictures with **Santa** and to all of you who volunteered your time.



Special thanks to: **GK Jim Brennan – Chairman, PGK Joe Turt, PGK Gil Scutti, PGK Gary Strain, PGK Gary Tanner, PGK Lance Beden, PGK Ben Vasta, Greg Malera, Newt Schoener, John Daddario, Bill Maffucci, Sam Parry, Ray Rossignol, Jamie Luscombe, Chris Benz, Rich Smyth, Tim Whelihan, John Szombathy, Joe Covallo, Rev. Mr. Bill Slaven, Keith Werner, Eric Errickson.**



The **Grinch** greeted all of our young guests.

The **Galaxy Youth Group** worked with the young children on letters to our troops and holiday crafts.



The **Children's Choir** performed for the pleasure of all.

From the Financial Secretary

Dues paid by Council members help underwrite our charitable activities, as well as our activities in support of the Church and the youth of the Parish. Your dues statement will be mailed separately. Please look for it. You can pay your dues at any of our meetings or you can mail them to **Ben Vasta**. Upon receipt of your dues your membership card will be mailed to you.

I mentioned in our last newsletter that we are assessed each year by Supreme Council and the NJ State Council to help underwrite their charitable activities. **We are required to remit for each member on our roster regardless of whether that member has paid his dues. Therefore, when a member does not pay his dues, he reduces the amount of money available to the Council for charitable acts.** Some members have not paid their dues in a number of years. We appreciate the efforts of those brothers in arrears to become current.

Please remember if you are experiencing financial difficulties that prevent you from paying what you owe in past or future dues, please contact me.

God Bless,

Ben Vasta (856-627-2916) (bvasta@comcast.net, doctorvasta@gmail.com)

Internet – Web Pages @ <http://www.pfmc.info/KofCC6551.htm>

Portable Document Format (PDF) files of this issue of *Council Matters* and some past issues will have links on the above internet web page with links to additional information about this council and the Knights of Columbus PDF files require use of the FREE Adobe Acrobat Reader downloaded using the link on the above web pages.